

Message Text

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 6 PORT OF SPAIN 0905

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: AMGT PFOR TD US
SUBJ: PARM--ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCES ASSESSMENT--
PART I

REF: (A) STATE 38356, (B) STATE 45461, (C) STATE 57361
CERP 0001

PART I--POLICY ASSESSMENT

A. U.S. INTERESTS

1. A SIGNIFICANT UNITED STATES INTEREST IN TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO CONTINUES TO BE RELATED TO UNITED STATES
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY:

--CONTINUED ACCESS TO TRINIDAD'S SUPPLIES OF
PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS, AND REFINED PRODUCTS;
--MARKET ACCESS FOR US. PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY
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CAPITAL GOODS, TECHNOLOGY, AND MANAGEMENT INPUTS
FOR THE COUNTRY'S EXPANDING INDUSTRIALIZATION
PROGRAM; AND
--PROTECTION OF THE ALREADY SIZEABLE (ABOUT
\$750 MILLION) AND RAPIDLY GROWING U.S. DIRECT
INVESTMENT, MOSTLY IN PETROLEUM AND PETRO-
CHEMICALS).

2. SECONDARILY, BUT VERY IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE AN INTEREST IN MAINTENANCE OF A DYNAMIC DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM ADHERING TO HIGH STANDARDS OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS, BOTH AS THE BEST CHANCE FOR MEETING THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND TO SERVE THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS DEFINED ABOVE. AN ESSENTIAL COROLLARY TO THE CONTINUATION OF A STABLE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IS THE DEGREE OF SUCCESS THIS DEVELOPING COUNTRY HAS IN PROVIDING A GROWING MEASURE OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR ITS PEOPLE, THUS DIRECTING OUR ATTENTION TO TRINIDAD'S OWN ECONOMIC AND MANAGERIAL PERFORMANCE AS A FACTOR UNDERGIRDING THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL EVOLUTION AND A PLURALISTIC ECONOMY.

3. THIRDLY, WE HAVE AN INTEREST IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AS AN ACTOR ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, A FACTOR IN WORLD ORDER AND IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL FORA. THIS INTEREST FOCUSSES PARTICULARLY ON THE CARIBBEAN SUB-REGION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CAN BE A CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE INFLUENCE WITHIN CARICOM AND VIS-A-VIS THE OTHER RAPIDLY CHANGING ENTITIES OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, AND IN A WIDER SENSE WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON PUERTO RICO, THE LAW OF THE SEA, AND CUBA.

B. OVERVIEW

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1. NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THE SMOOTH CONSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION TO A REPUBLIC IN 1976 UNDERLINE THE STRENGTHS AND STABILITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONS. THE COMPLETELY FREE AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS BROUGHT INTO THE PARLIAMENT AN ACTIVE AND CRITICAL OPPOSITION, YET THE OVERWHELMING ELECTORAL DECISION WAS FOR STABILITY AND CONTINUITY, AND THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF ALL PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS SINCE THE ELECTION HAS BEEN DEMOCRATIC AND ESSENTIALLY HEALTHY.

2. NEVERTHELESS, PRESSURES DO EXIST FOR CHANGE, FOR GREATER GOVERNMENTAL DYNAMISM AND EFFICIENCY, FOR MORE DIRECT GOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT, AND FOR MORE ACTIVIST INTERNATIONAL ROLE. SOME OF THESE PRESSURES ARE POSITIVE, BUT MANY ARE NOT. ALTHOUGH NOT NOW IN THE ASCENDANCY, CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL PRESSURES EXIST FOR RADICAL

IDEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS. THESE FORCES
AFFECT THE PRAGMATISM AND EFFICIENCY OF EVEN THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT. THE STRONG SHOWING OF THE UNITED LABOR
FRONT (ULF) IN THE LAST ELECTION IS ONE CLOUD ON
THE POLITICAL HORIZON. THERE ARE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE
ULF WHICH ARE ACUTELY HOSTILE TO ECONOMIC PLURALISM
AND TO COOPERATION WITH TRINIDAD'S TRADITIONAL FRIENDS.
THEY WILL SEEK TO CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM OF ULF
SUCCESS TO MOVE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN DIRECTIONS
COUNTER TO U.S. INTERSTS. HOVERING IN THE BACKGROUND
IS THE PROSPECT OF RACH AND RADICAL IDEOLOGY BEING
UTILIZED AS LEVERS TO POWER AT THE EXPENSE OF MUCH
OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF THE
SOCIETY. THIS SITUATION PLACES A PREMIUM ON THE NEED
FOR OUR DEEPER DIALOGUE AND CONTACT WITHIN THE SOCIETY
TO PROJECT THE REAL VALUES OF U.S. SOCIETY AND THE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSITIVE COOPERATION IN FREEDOM
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FY-1979 COULD WELL BE A PIVOTAL YEAR, SINCE IT IS NOT IMPLAUSIBLE TO PREDICT THAT DR. ERIC WILLIAMS MAY ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE HIS SUCCESSION THEN OR THE NEXT YEAR. GIVEN THE WESTMINSTER SYSTEM OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT, WILLIAMS CAN BE EXPECTED TO STEP ASIDE (IF AT ALL) WELL BEFORE THE PARTY MUST AGAIN STAND FOR ELECTION IN 1981 AND WHILE A SOLID PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IS STILL ASSURED. THE DEPARTURE FROM THE HELM OF THE LEADER WHO HAS GOVERNED AFFAIRS OF STATE SINCE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE IS A CRUCIAL TESTING POINT FOR EVERY YOUNG DEMOCRACY, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WILL BE NO EXCEPTION. IN THE SHORT RUN, HOWEVER, THE INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY OF THE SOCIETY SHOULD PROVIDE FOR A SMOOTH PASSING OF THE SCEPTER TO ANOTHER FIGURE OF THE MAJORITY PARTY WHO COULD LARGELY BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW WILLIAMS' POLICIES IN THE BROAD SENSE. PRESENT FRON RUNNERS ARE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOHN DONALDSON AND FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL KARL HUDSON-PHILLIPS. EITHER WOULD REQUIRE
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ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VIA A BY-ELECTION TO ASSUME THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP, BUT THIS IS EASILY ARRANGED EITHER BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER WILLIAMS STEPS DOWN. OTHER POTENTIAL CANDIDATES MAY EMERGE. IN ANY CASE THE NEXT GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO BE MORE COLLEGIAL AND LESS OF A ONE-MAN SHOW.

4. WHILE THE IMMEDIATE TRANSITION SHOULD GO RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY, ALBEIT WITH INEVITABLE POLITICAL JOCKEYING WITHIN THE RULING PEOPLES' NATIONAL MOVEMENT, THE MID-TERM STABILITY OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE LESS CERTAIN. SUCH A GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO BEAR MUCH OF THE PENT-UP DEMAND FOR CHANGE WHICH WILLIAMS' PRESTIGE HAS HELPED TO CONTAIN, AND WILL HAVE TO FACE NATIONAL ELECTIONS WITHIN TWO YEARS OF ASSUMING POWER EVEN IF CHAOTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES DO NOT ARISE PRIOR THERETO.

5. COINCIDENT WITH THE PROBABLE PASSING OF ERIC WILLIAMS FROM THE HELM WILL BE THE CRITICAL PRESSURES OF UNEMPLOYMENT. WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VIA HIGH-CAPITAL, HIGH-TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIALIZATION WILL BE PUT VERY MUCH TO THE POLITICAL TEST. SINCE 1973, THE ECONOMIC OPTIONS PROVIDED BY THE CHANGE IN PETRO-ECONOMICS AND IMPORTANT NEW OIL AND GAS DISCOVERIES HAVE GIVEN THE AVERAGE CITIZEN AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL A SENSE OF POSSIBILITIES AND HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE. THE LONG LEAD

TIME FOR REALIZATION OF MUCH OF THE INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED, COUPLED WITH ACUTE MANAGERIAL INEFFICIENCIES, CREAKY PUBLIC SERVICES, AND CONTINUINGLY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, ARE NEVERTHELESS LEADING TO INCREASING QUESTIONING OF WHETHER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT (INDEED THE PRESENT "ECONOMIC SYSTEM") CAN UTILIZE THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES

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TO PROVIDE RAPIDLY EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN.

6. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHOULD BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN MANAGERIAL, ECONOMIC PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FIELDS, AS WELL AS IN DISSEMINATION OF LABOR-INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY AND PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL REJUVENATION AND DIVERSIFICATION. I DO BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER DIRECT CAPITAL GRANTS OR CONCESSIONAL LOANS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. THIS COUNTRY CAN MEET ITS ESSENTIAL CAPITAL NEEDS FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES AND THROUGH COMMERCIAL AND IFI BORROWINGS BASED ON ITS EXCELLENT CREDIT RQTING. HOWEVER, THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROGRAM ON WHICH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS NOW EMBARKED WILL PLACE HEAVY DEMANDS ON THE HUMAN, TECHNOLOGICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCES OF THIS COUNTRY OF ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE. SHOULD THE PROGRAM FAIL TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES, THE RESULT COULD WELL BE A REASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM ITSELF WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE THE DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF THE SOCIETY. IT THEREFORE BEHOOVES THE UNITED STATES TO HELP IN ANY WAY IT CAN, BOTH THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BY LIBERAL TRADE POLICIES WHICH ENCOURAGE A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES

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7. AT THIS STAGE WE CAN PERHAPS BEST ASSIST THROUGH REGIONALLY ORIENTED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, BUT THESE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT THE PROBLEMS OF HELPING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH ITS MIXED AND OPEN ECONOMY AS WELL AS FOCUSING ON THE SMALLER AND POORER ISLANDS. WITHIN THE NEXT DECADE, THE SMALLER ISLANDS CANNOT OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP OR DYNAMIC MODELS FOR THE AREA AS TRINIDAD HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF DOING. FURTHERMORE, AS WE ADDRESS OUR EFFORTS AT EXPANDING TRADE AND INVESTMENT WE CAN BE MORE ALERT TO ACTIONS WHICH STIMULATE A HEALTHY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY IN MIDDLE-SCALE ENDEAVORS WHERE DOMESTIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAN TAKE HEALTHY ROOT.

8. FOR SOME YEARS IT HAS BEEN A CENTRAL PLANK OF UNITED STATES POLICY TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) AS A MECHANISM FOR BRINGING TOGETHER A VIABLY SIZED ECONOMIC MARKET
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WHICH CAN STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INTEGRATION, INHIBIT POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, AND PERHAPS EVEN PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR EVENTUAL POLITICAL UNIFICATION.

9. IN MARCH 1977 THE POLITICAL GOALS OF CARICOM SEEM EVEN MORE DISTANT THAN A YEAR AGO, AND THE ESSENTIAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE UNDERPINNING IS IN ACUTE JEOPARDY. RESTRICTIVE TRADE MEASURES INSTITUTED IN RECENT MONTHS BY BOTH GUYANA AND JAMICA HAVE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED TRINIDADIAN EXPORTS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSUMPTIONS WHICH WILL GUIDE ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPANSION AND INVESTMENT. COMING ON TOP OF THE WIDENING DIVERGENCE OF THE

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES OF JAMICA AND GUYANA FROM THE MORE CONSERVATIVE AND MARKET-ORIENTED GOVERNMENTS IN TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS, CARICOM IS INDEED SICK. HIGH TRINIDADIAN OFFICIALS SPEAK QUIETLY OF POSTPONED CARICOM MEETINGS, COMMUNITY INITIATIVES LIE DORMANT, RUMORS ABOUND THAT CARICOM OFFICIALS LIKE ALISTAIR MCINTYRE MAY SOON TURN TO OTHER PASTURES, BUSINESS COMMUNITIES CRY FOR RETALIATION AGAINST JAMICAN PROTECTIONISM, AND GOVERNMENTS APPEAR INACTIVE. SUCH A PERIOD OF DRIFT AND EROSION MAY CONTINUE, DRAMATIC CONFRONTATIONS COULD LEAD TO OPEN RUPTURES, OR UNUSUAL STATESMANSHIP COULD PULL CARICOM BACK TO A HEALTHY AND DYNAMIC MOMENTUM BASED ON THE VERY REAL UNDERLYING COMMITMENT OF THESE SOCIETIES TO THE CONCEPT OF UNITY AND COOPERATION. IN THE SHORT RUN, THE LATTER SEEMS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, AND WE MUST SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER CARICOM OFFERS A SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE VEHICLE FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY TO REST UPON AT THIS STAGE. CERTAINLY WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ACTIONS WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED AS INTENDING TO DIVIDE THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN. IN PART THE CURRENT TRINIDADIAN CAUTION IN ANY OPEN SECRET

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DEALINGS WITH THE USG IS BASED ON ITS FEAR OF FEEDING THE POPULAR ASSUMPTION THAT THE GOTT IS "IN THE US CAMP" AS OPPOSED TO JAMAICA AND GUYANA. HOWEVER, WE MUST ACTIVELY SEARCH FOR OTHER LEVERS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE GROWTH WHILE TIME PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CARICOM TO HEAL ITS WOUNDS.

10. AS WE VIEW THE RELATIVELY CALM AND SANE STABILITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WE ASK OURSELVES HOW THIS NATION CAN BECOME A GREATER INFLUENCE FOR MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES WITHIN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ALERT TO REASONABLE ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION, YET ALSO REALIZE THAT, FAR LESS THAN WE MAY TEND TO ASSUME, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS NOT AMENABLE TO TAKING ON SUCH AN ACTIVIST ROLE IN TANDEM WITH US OR PERHAPS EVEN ALONE. ERIC WILLIAMS HAS A FINELY TUNED SENSE OF WHEN NOT TO MEDDLE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS.

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11. WE AT TIMES BECOME IRRITATED WITH GOTT
ABSTENTIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL VOTES IN THE UN AND IN
OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES, AND AT THE RELATIVE GOTT
PASSIVITY IN THE FACE OF CUBAN OR JAMAICAN POSTURING
AND SHRILLNESS. YET, PERHAPS WE SHOULD ASK
OURSELVES WHETHER THE VERY APPROACH TO "MINDING ONE'S
OWN BUSINESS" WHICH WILLIAMS PROMOTES IS NOT ALL TOO
RARE IN THE WORLD TODAY. IF INDEED TRINIDAD MOVED TO
A MORE ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY, THE PRESSURES WHICH
MOTIVATED IT WOULD MORE LIKELY STEM FROM THE "THIRD
WORLD" SYNDROME INFECTING SO MUCH OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
SUCH MOTIVATIONS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE MORE RECEPTIVE
TO OUR INTERESTS THAN THE CONSERVATIVE POSTURE NOW
HELD. WE SUGGEST THAT, LOOKING TO A COMEWHAT
LONGER PERSPECTIVE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AS A SUCCESSFUL
EXAMPLE OF RESPONSIBLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY UNDER A SYSTEM INCORPORATING A SIGNIFICANT
MIX OF FREE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, AND HEALTHY INDEPENDENT
PRESS AND JUDICIARY, AND FIRMLY ESTABLISHED HUMAN RIGHTS

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IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN AN ACTIVIST GOTT
FOREIGN POLICY OR ONE MORE VOTE IN THE UN. ONLY WHEN
TRINIDAD REALLY IS THE SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF HUMAN
FREEDOM, RACIAL HARMONY, GOOD MANAGEMENT, AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH WHICH IT CAN BECOME WILL IT BE THE EFFECTIVE
MAGNET AND MODEL FOR OTHER SOCIETIES IN THE CARIBBEAN
WHICH WE WOULD LIKE IT TO BE. THEREFORE, OUR

CHALLENGE IS UNOBTRUSIVELY AND NON-DOGMATICALLY TO HELP WHEN WE CAN, WHILE UNDERSTANDING THE GOTT'S NEED NOT TO APPEAR AS OUR FAIR HAired BOY. THE SENSITIVIES AND INSECURITIES ARE STILL TOO GREAT IN THIS RECENTLY INDEPENDENT AND LARGELY DARK-SKINNED COUNTRY WHICH HAS EMERGED TO NATIONHOOD GEOGRAPHICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE COLOSSUS TO THE NORTH AND YET SURROUNDED BY THE SHRILL IDEOLOGICAL RHETORIC OF THE TIMES.

12. WITH ITS RESOURCES, EDUCATED POPULATION, POLITICAL STABILITY, AND RACIAL HARMONY, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR ATTAINING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUCCESS. BOTH AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL ARE SIGNIFICANT. WITHIN LESS THAN A GENERATION IT CAN BECOME THE SIGAPORE OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THE POSSIBILITIES FOR STUMBLING BADLY ARE ALSO PRESENT, BUT THE OPPORTUNITIES DESERVE OUR INTEREST AND COOPERATION, ASSISTING WHERE FEASIBLE.

C. OBJECTIVES AND COURSES OF ACTION

OBJECTIVE 1: TO EXPAND TRADE AND INVESTMENT WITH AND BY AMERICAN CORPORATIONS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. DURING THE PARM TIME FRAME TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WILL BE IN THE MIDST OF ITS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND WILL BE A READY MARKET FOR US CAPITAL GOODS AND US INVESTMENT IN BASIC AND SUBSIDIARY ECONOMIC VENTURES. IN PURSUING THIS OBJECTIVE, THE US GOVERNMENT

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SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND TWO RELATED AND IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES--TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES WHICH ABSORB UNEMPLOYMENT. THESE SUBSIDIARY OBJECTIVES ARE TIED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDING THE MOST FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR ACHIEVING THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE BUT ALSO RELATE TO OUR INTERESTS IN PERSERVING THE PLURALISTIC DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WHICH NOW EXISTS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

COURSES OF ACTION:

--ENCOURAGE THE CHOICE OF AMERICAN SUPPLIERS FOR THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOTT.

--KEEP THE APPROPRIATE GOTT AGENCIES AND AMERICAN FIRMS INFORMED OF THE ECONOMIC

OPPORTUNITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
AND THE INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES
BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THESE PROJECTS.
--ACTIVELY DEVELOP TRADE OPPORTUNITIES
WITH THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BUSINESS
COMMUNITY THROUGH PERSONAL VISITS, USE
OF THE MEDIA, TRADE FAIRS AND THE
COMMERICAL NEWSLETTER.
--WORK CLOSELY WITH THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION TO DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR INVEST-
MENT BY U.S. FIRMS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND

COMMUNICATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PRODUCT LINES WHICH US INDUSTRY CAN CONTRIBUTE
TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.
--ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF LABOR-
INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES THROUGH COORDINATION
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WITH THE GOTT, ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE
INITIATIVE, AND ASSISTANCE IN THE IDENTI-
FICATION OF SUITABLE TECHNOLOGY.

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OBJECTIVE 2: TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL CONSULATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON PROBLEMS OF INTEREST AND CONCERN TO THE THIRD WORLD. AS A RELATIVELY MODERATE, PRAGMATIC AND STABLE COUNTRY, TRINIDAD IS IN A POSITION TO HELP MODERATE AND CHANNEL INTO CONSTRUCTIVE COURSES SOME OF THE MORE RADICAL TENDENCIES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND ELSEWHERE IN THE THIRD WORLD. A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE AND SYSTEMATIC BILATERAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AT THE REAL DECISION-MAKING LEVEL (THAT IS, WITH PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS) TO DISCUSS MORE LONG-TERM PROBLEMS COULD YIELD MORE DEPENDABLE RESULTS. COURSES OF ACTION:

--CONTINUE TO ACCORD PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS AND OTHER GOTT POLICY MAKERS HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON AND IN VISITS BY SENIOR-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

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--SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSULT WITH THE GOTT ON MATTERS OF REAL POLITICAL CONCERN TO BOTH COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE STATUS OF PERUTO RICO AND US POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

--EXPAND AND RAISE THE LEVEL OF BILATERAL DIALOGUE ON US POLICIES RELATING TO TRINIDAD'S SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES SUCH AS COMMODITY PRICE STABILIZATION AND ENERGY.

OBJECTIVE 3: TO IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS. WE SHOULD TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH SUCCESSORS ARE IDENTIFIED AND ACCURATELY INFORMED ABOUT US POLICIES AND INTENTIONS TOWARDS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE CARIBBEAN. WE SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT FEEL IGNORED BY THE US GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE PURSUIT OF THIS OBJECTIVE WILL ENTAIL CERTAIN RISKS OF OFFENDING WILLIAMS, THE USG SHOULD NOT MORTGAGE FUTURE RELATIONS WITH TRINIDAD TO THE SENSITIVITIES OF A LEADER WHO WILL PROBABLY LEAVE OFFICE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

COURSES OF ACTION:

--CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH
POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS TO WILLIAMS WITHIN
THE PNM AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

--ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES ARE AWARE THAT
THE USG WILL NOT PLAY FAVORITES WITH
INDIVIDUALS AND WILL DEAL WITH WHATEVER
GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS THE PEOPLE OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTS BY DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS.

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--ENSURE THAT POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS ARE MADE
AWARE OF KEY US POLICY INITIATIVES AND
DECISIONS WHICH WILL AFFECT TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO.

--IN ITS PUBLIC ACTIVITIES IN TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO AND THE US, GIVE BALANCED AND COURTEOUS
TREATMENT TO ALL POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS.

OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOP A BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF
US POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SOLICIT
THE SUPPORT OF THE GOTT IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

COURSES OF ACTION:

--INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO GET THE ACTIVE SUPPORT
OF THE GOTT IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 ON
PUERTO RICAN ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRINIDAD
AND PUERTO RICO.

--CONSULT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND IN AS MUCH
DETAIL AS POSSIBLE ON THE BACKGROUND AND
LEVEL OF CONCERN IN THE USG FOR MAJOR CONTEN-
TIOUS ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

OBJECTIVE 5: STRENGTHEN AND REINFORCE THE POSITIVE
ASPECTS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AS A STABLE AND DEMO-
CRATIC LEADER OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN.
WITH ITS OIL REVENUES, DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS AND
INSTITUTIONS AND NON-IDEOLOGICAL APPROACH TO PROBLEMS,
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS MANY DESIRABLE ATTRIBUTES
WHICH WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE. THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS,
HOWEVER, BESET WITH STRONG PRESSURES FROM WITHIN AS
WELL AS FROM ITS CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS TO ADOPT RADICAL
IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS IN ITS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
POLICIES.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-01
NSC-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 /084 W
-----031346Z 044142 /50

R 031200Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 517
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
USDAO CARACAS

S E C R E T SECTION 6 OF 6 PORT OF SPAIN 0905

COURSES OF ACTION:

--WITHOUT NECESSARILY PERSONALIZING THE
EFFORT OF PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS WE SHOULD
LET TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO KNOW PRIVATELY
AND PUBLICLY THAT TRINIDAD HAS A SYSTEM
WHICH WE BELIEVE TO HAVE THE BEST CHANCE
TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN DEALING WITH THE
PRESENT AND FUTURE PROBLEMS OF THE
CARIBBEAN.

--ENCOURAGE US FIRMS WITH LARGE INVESTMENTS
IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO ACT RESPONSIBLY
AND TO DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO ASSIST
THE GOTT IN DEALING WITH SUCH PROBLEMS AS
UNEMPLOYMENT.

--ASSIST THE GOTT WHENEVER POSSIBLE WITH
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION IN
RESOLVING PROBLEMS.

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OBJECTIVE 6: CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND ENCOURAGE AN
UNDERSTANDING OF US POLICIES RELATING TO TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO WITHIN THE GOTT AS WELL AS IN OTHER POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP GROUPS. THIS OBJECTIVE WILL

BECOME MORE IMPORTANT AS GOTT POLICY BECOMES MORE
STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY INFORMAL PUBLIC OPINION OUTSIDE
THE GOVERNMENT IN THE WANING YEARS OF DR. WILLIAMS'
RULE.

COURSES OF ACTION:

--CONTINUE TO USE AND IMPROVE THE PRESENT
DIRECT INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF USIS.
--EXPAND THE PLACEMENT OF CAREFULLY CHOSEN AND
TAILORED INFORMATION ABOUT US POLICIES
IN THE MEDIA.
--MAKE INCREASED USE OF EMBASSY OFFICERS AND
OFFICIAL VISITORS TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC FORA ON
IMPORTANT US POLICIES WHICH ARE OF INTEREST
TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

OBJECTIVE 7: MINIMIZE THE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS
STEMMING FROM THE EQUITABLE ADMINISTRATION OF U.S. IMMIGRATION
LAW. BARRING SIGNIFICANT NEW U.S. LEGISLATION TO DEAL
WITH THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, THE BRUNT
OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWS WILL CONTINUE
TO FALL ON THE EMBASSY AND WILL INEVITABLY BE A POTENTIAL
SOURCE OF IRRITATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TRINIDAD
AT ALL LEVELS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE STRICT POLICY OF
THE GOTT ON GRANTING WORK PERMITS TO THE NON-TRINIDADIAN
EMPLOYEES OF AMERICAN FIRMS MAY ALSO BE A CONTENTIOUS
ISSUE AFFECTING ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

COURSES OF ACTION:

--IMPROVE PRESENT PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND
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SYSTEMS IN THE CONSULAR SECTION TO SPEED
UP THE VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURES.
--ENSURE THAT GOTT OFFICIALS AND OPINION
MAKERS ARE AWARE OF U.S. LAWS, REGULATIONS,
AND PROCEDURES.
--CONSULT WITH THE GOTT AND AMERICAN FIRMS
ACTIVE IN TRINIDAD ON THE CRITERIA EMPLOYED
FOR ISSUING WORK PERMITS TO ENSURE THAT THE
OBJECTIVES OF BOTH SIDES ARE MET WITHOUT
NEEDLESS COMPLICATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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